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SECURITY INFORMATION

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FAR EAST

1. Effort to prevent Karen Minister's resignation reported:
The Minister for Karen Affairs in the Burmese Cabinet has threatened to resign. [REDACTED]

25X1X [REDACTED] Her brothers, members of the British Embassy, and the Minister of Transportation and Communications, also a Karen, are trying to dissuade her from such action.

25X1A [REDACTED] FOR CRITICAL SECURITY REASONS this report must not be further transmitted within the United States or beyond the borders of the United States without the express permission of the releasing office.)

Comment: This is the second recent report indicating that the Karen Minister does not believe that the Burmese Government is sincere in its attempts at a settlement with the Karens.

NEAR EAST-AFRICA

2. Iran reportedly ready to violate Battle Act: Iranian Minister of National Economy Akhavi informed the American Embassy that trade negotiations which included the sale of oil were underway with the USSR, Poland and Czechoslovakia. He thought the Czech delegation was particularly anxious to conclude an agreement and was offering payment in foreign exchange.

When it was pointed out to Akhavi that oil sales to the Orbit conflicted with the Battle Act, he stated that if Iran could get more by selling oil to the Soviet bloc than by accepting American aid, it would do business with the Orbit.
(S S/S Tehran 570, 7 Aug 52)

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Comment: Iranian spokesmen have on other occasions used the threat of selling oil to the Soviet Orbit in an attempt to obtain concessions from the United States.

3. Turkish Government to promote closer relations with Arabs:
The Secretary General of the Foreign Office in Ankara has told Ambassador McGhee that the Turkish Government's policy is to promote closer relations with the Arab states. He said that the implementation of this policy was difficult since none of the Arab governments were stable enough to conclude agreements of any importance.

The Secretary General stated that the Turks are thinking of trying a new approach to the problem by promoting unofficial visits of representative Turkish citizens to the Arab states. Such a procedure might lay the foundation for better understanding without incurring political reactions. (S S/S Ankara 187, 6 Aug 52)

Comment: The Western powers have on occasion encouraged the Turks to promote better relations with their Arab neighbors.

25X6

4. Britain and Egypt agree on presentation of credentials:
Britain's Ambassador Stevenson is presenting new credentials to the Egyptian Regency Council, avoiding mention of the King's title, in accordance with an agreement between the Ambassador and Prime Minister Ali Maher. Barring last minute difficulties, the Foreign Office expected Stevenson to present them on or before 11 August.

When Stevenson tried to persuade Ali Maher to extend this procedure to other states, the Prime Minister refused to commit himself. (S S/S London 713, 7 Aug 52)

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